

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Patent Public Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

Search Enhancement Pilot

Greg Vidovich

Associate Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

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Examination Search Enhancement

Public Feedback

- Identify the best prior art references early in prosecution
- Provide early notice to applicant
 - Prior art references relevant to the invention as disclosed

Examination Search Enhancement

Pilot Being Designed to Test

- Best avenue for providing prior art
- Overall benefits to the impact on examination quality
- Benefits to the improvements in patent pendency

Examination Search Enhancement

Preliminary Stages (Initiated Jan. 2017)

- Working team studying Foreign Patent Offices, corporations and small businesses search methodology
- Patent Management, POPA and Stakeholders discussions on possible scope of pilot
- Tentatively launching pilot – 4th Qtr FY17

Questions and Comments

Greg Vidovich

Associate Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

571-272-4415

Greg.Vidovich@uspto.gov

Don Hajec

Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations

271-272-5100

Don.hajec@uspto.gov

